

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: US, CI SHUM

SUBJECT:DIUGUID ARTICLE ON U.S.-CHILE POLICY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LEWIS DIUGUID ARTICLE, TITLED
"U.S. SEEN PRESSING CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS," WHICH APPEARED
IN WASHINGTON POST APRIL 21.

2. QUOTE: SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A KISSINGER WILL NOT
VISIT CHILE ON HIS LONG-AWAITED LATIN AMERICAN TOUR BECAUSE
THE RULING JUNTA HAS NOT RESPONDED TO HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
A LIBERALIZATION OF CHILEAN CIVIL RIGHTS, ACCORDING TO AN
OFFICIAL CLOSE TO KISSINGER.

3. "THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT KISSINGER'S
TRIP, WHICH STARTS APRIL 23, WILL INCLUDE ARGENTINA,
BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA. VISITS TO CHILE AND PERU, PLANNED
EARLIER, WOULD BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE PRESSING TIME
DEMANDS OF THE INDOCHINA SITUATION, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID.

4. "FROM THE FIRST MENTION OF THE TRIP LAST YEAR, HOW-
EVER, THE CHILE STOPOVER WAS CONSIDERED CONTINGENT ON SOME
MAJOR CIVIL RIGHTS CONCESSION BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

5. "CHILE'S RULERS HAVE TAKEN NO SUCH INITIATIVE SINCE
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PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER THAT
MANY JAILED LEFTISTS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GO INTO
EXILE. 'HAD THEY RESPONDED MORE DRAMATICALLY,' SAID THE
OFFICIAL, KISSINGER COULD HAVE FOLLOWED THROUGH ON HIS

INTENDED VISIT.

6. "THE SUSPENDED BUT STILL ACTIVE CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SENT AN ENVOY TO WASHINGTON TO BUTTRESS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INSISTENCE OR OBTAINING SOME MEANINGFUL STEP FROM THE JUNTA.

7. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, INCLUDING FORMER PRESIDENT EDUARDO FREI, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS INCREASING REPRESSION.

8. "IT WOULD MEAN NOTHING, FOR INSTANCE, IF THE JUNTA ANNOUNCED AN END TO PRESS CENSORSHIP WHILE THE SAME PRESSURES REMAINED ON EDITORS TO EXERCISE SELF-CENSORSHIP,' SAID THE PARTY'S ENVOY RECENTLY. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, ONLY PRO-JUNTA PAPERS NOW ARE PERMITTED TO PRINT.

9. "THE PARTY, CHILE'S LARGEST, RULED FROM 1964 TO 1970 UNDER FREI BUT WAS THEN DEFEATED BY THE COALITION BACKING SALVADOR ALLENDE. WHEN THE COUP AGAINST ALLENDE CAME IN 1973, THE PARTY'S OFFICIAL REACTION WAS THAT IT WAS LAMENTABLE BUT NECESSARY.

10. "NOW, THE PARTY LEADERSHIP FEELS THAT THE MILITARY, HAVING JAILED MARXIST LEADERS OR DRIVEN THEM INTO EXILE, IS TURNING ITS REPRESSIVE MACHINERY ON THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

11. "A DOCUMENT ISSUED AFTER A SECRET PARTY MEETING IN SANTIAGO, AS 'A RIGHT-WING DICTATORSHIP WITH FACIST MANIFESTATIONS AND A TENDENCY TOWARDS PERPETUITY.'

12. "THE FORMER PARTY PRESIDENT, RENAN FUENTEALBA, WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AFTER HE GRANTED A CRITICAL INTERVIEW TO A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT.

13. "THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE AGAINST ALLENDE IN 1970,
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RADOMIRO TOMIC, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, IS LIVING IN WASHINGTON.

,4. "FREI'S LAST FINANCE MINISTER, ANDRES ZALDIVER - WHOM ALLENDE'S SUPPORTERS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO SOW ECONOMIC CHAOS IN THE LAST DAYS BEFORE ALLENDE TOOK OFFICE - RECENTLY WAS FORCED OUT OF HIS JOB WITH THE CHILEAN SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION BECAUSE THE MILITARY OBJECTED TO HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

15. "THE PARTY LOST BOTH ITS NEWSPAPER AND RADIO OUTLETS AFTER THE JUNTA SUSPENDED THE PARTIES THAT HAD OPPOSED ALLENDE AND DISSOLVED THOSE THAT HAD BACKED HIM.

16. "FREI, WHO HAS REMAINED IN CHILE, IS DESCRIBED AS INCREASINGLY RESTIVE UNDER WHAT HE FEELS IS AN ENFORCED SILENCE. THE PARTY'S PRESIDENT, PATRICIO AYLWIN, ISSUED STRONG DENUNCIATIONS OF JUNTA MOVES AGAINST THE PARTY-OWNED RADIO, ONLY TO BE REBUKED BY THE RULERS.

17. "WITH ALL MEANS OF MASS EXPRESSION CHOKED OFF, FREI AND AYLWIN WERE BANKING ON KISSINGER TO FORCE A LETUP BY THE JUNTA.

18. "THE JUNTA IS TREATED AS A PARIAH BY MOST GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE OF DOCUMENTED ACCOUNTS OF TORTURE AND ARBITRARY DETENTION OF THOUSANDS OF LEFTISTS.

19. "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS THE MAIN EXCEPTION, HAS GRANTED \$237 MILLION IN AID AND HAS OFFERED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT WHILE HINTING THAT IT HAS QUIETLY WORKED FOR RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE.

20. "KISSINGER SAID TWO MONTHS AGO THAT HE 'WAS NOT UNINVOLVED' IN THE RELEASE OF THE FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, ORLANDO LETELIER, AFTER A YEAR IN PRISON.

21. "A CANVASS OF SOURCES IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE OF KISSINGER INITIATIVES, HOWEVER. INSTEAD THERE WAS WIDE AGREEMENT THAT EFFORTS BY LATIN UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE U.S. INTERESTS INFLUENCED THE JUNTA'S DECISION TO RELEASE LETELIER.

22. "NEVERTHELESS, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INDICATE CONTINUING EFFORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE. 'WE'RE KEEPING OUR OAR IN,' A POLICY PLANNER SAID, POINTING TO THE POSTPONED KISSINGER VISIT. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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